

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, NL

SUBJECT: FOREIGN PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

REF: STATE 182572

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON DUTCH PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS AS REQUESTED IN PARA 5 (REFTEL), EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY FOLLOWING INTERIM RESPONSE BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY NETHERLANDS NORMALISATIE INSTITUUT (NNI). THIS MESSAGE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY MORE COMPLETE ANSWERS ASAP.

A. STANDARDS

...1. BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING AND ENFORCING BOTH VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY NATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE NETHERLANDS IS "NEDERLANDS NORMALISATIE INSTITUUT" (NNI), WHICH IS A MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATION AND A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.

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NNI COORDINATES ACTIVITIES OF TEN STANDARD-WRITING AGENCIES REPRESENTING DIFFERENT PRODUCT CATEGORIES. NNI AGENCIES REPRESENT INTERESTED PARTIES FROM TRADE, INDUSTRY, CONSUMERS AND GOVERNMENT. SEPARATE LISTS

OF ALL DUTCH STANDARDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES GOVERNING THEIR APPLICATION CAN BE SUPPLIED BY NNI.

...2. TOTAL NUMBER OF NNI STANDARDS AND BREAKDOWN ACCORDING TO PRODUCT CATEGORIES WILL BE SUPPLIED BY NNI ASAP. HOWEVER, BREAKDOWN INTO VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY STANDARDS IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE AND ALTHOUGH COLLECTING OF INFORMATION IS TIME CONSUMING, NNI HAS PROMISED ITS COOPERATION.

...3. NNI OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO SUPPLY EMBASSY WITH PERCENTAGE OF MANDATORY NATIONAL STANDARDS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

...4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING MANDATORY STANDARDS ALLOW FOR ADVANCE PUBLICATION AND COMMENTS BY ALL INTERESTED DOMESTIC PARTIES, USUALLY A TIME OF PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS IS ALLOWED FOR COMMENTS. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES FOLLOW.

...5. STATE AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ARE REPRESENTED IN ALL NNI AGENCIES DEVELOPING MANDATORY STANDARDS. NNI REPRESENTS TEN SUCH BODIES FOR EACH PRODUCT CATEGORY. INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF MANDATORY STANDARDS WITHIN PRODUCT GROUPS IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE.

...6. NNI IS INVOLVED IN WRITING OF BOTH VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY STANDARDS.

...7. NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY STANDARDS BROKEN DOWN BY INSTITUTIONS WRITING STANDARDS AND PRODUCT CATEGORIES WILL BE SUPPLIED ASAP.

B. TESTING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES

...1. TESTING OF GOVERNMENT MANDATORY STANDARDS IS CARRIED OUT BY INDEPENDENT NATIONAL TESTING AGENCIES REPRESENTING DIFFERENT PRODUCT CATEGORIES, OF WHICH MOST IMPORTANT ARE:
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KEMA (ELECTRICAL MATERIALS), KIWA (WATERWORK PRODUCTS), VEG (GAS APPARATUS), AND KOMO (CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS). ACCORDING TO NNI OFFICIALS, GON DOES NOT ACCEPT ASSURANCE OF CONFORMITY FROM EITHER SUPPLIERS OR QUALITY ASSURANCE BODIES IN COUNTRY OF THE FOREIGN EXPORTER. DUTCH GOVERNMENT IS HOWEVER WILLING TO ENTER INTO RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS ALLOWING FOR TESTING AND/OR CERTIFICATION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE FOREIGN SUPPLIER. ONLY RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT KNOWN TO NNI AT PRESENT IS SO-CALLED CEE AGREEMENT (INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RULES FOR THE APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT).

...2.3. ANSWERS ON QUESTIONS TWO AND THREE WILL BE SUPPLIED

BY NNI ASAP.

C. AUTHORITY

...1. STANDARD-WRITING IN THE NETHERLANDS (VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY) IS CARRIED OUT BY QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL NNI.

...2. ACCORDING TO NNI, NO NON-GOVERNMENTAL STANDARD WRITING BODIES ARE INVOLVED IN STANDARD-WRITING IN CONFLICT WITH GOVERNMENT MANDATORY STANDARDS, AS ALL EFFORTS ARE CONCENTRATED THROUGH NNI AGENCIES IN WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ARE REPRESENTED.

...3. INFORMATION FOLLOWS ASAP.

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE FOR ANSWERING WIDE-RANGING QUESTIONS IN REFTEL, EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DEVELOP AS YET INFO ON SPECIFIC LINKS NNI HAS WITH EC STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS, HOW OBLIGATIONS UNDER ROME TREATY AFFECT DOMESTIC STANDARDS (IF AT ALL), OR WHAT POSSIBLE EFFECTS ALLEGED ABSENCE OF AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (PARA 1-B.1 ABOVE) MAY HAVE ON THOSE COUNTRIES' ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL EXPORTS TO NETHERLANDS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFO AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON ON SUBJECT SO THAT WE COULD DIRECT OUR EFFORTS TO GAPS AND AVOID UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION.
BROWN

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